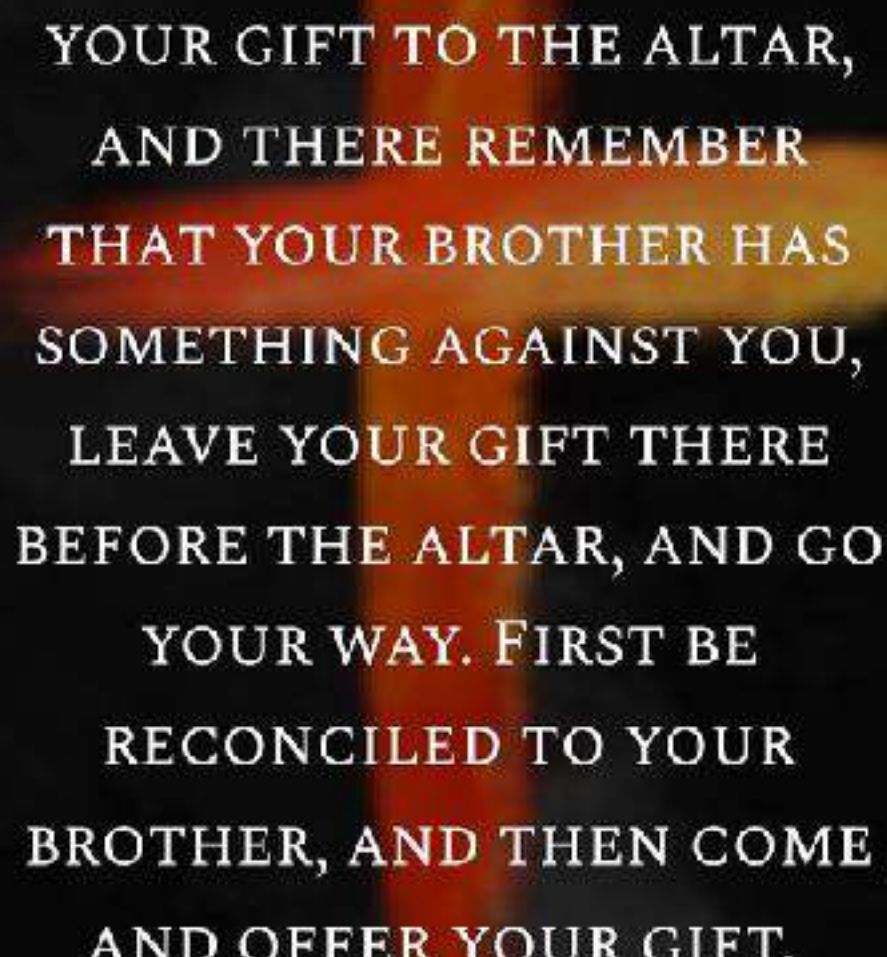




THE TIME HAS COME



2021
LENT
JOURNEY
MARCH 2021 BEACON



THEREFORE IF YOU BRING
YOUR GIFT TO THE ALTAR,
AND THERE REMEMBER
THAT YOUR BROTHER HAS
SOMETHING AGAINST YOU,
LEAVE YOUR GIFT THERE
BEFORE THE ALTAR, AND GO
YOUR WAY. FIRST BE
RECONCILED TO YOUR
BROTHER, AND THEN COME
AND OFFER YOUR GIFT.
MATTHEW 5:23-24

Dear Friends,

Lent is about forgiveness, reconciliation, and renewal. It's a journey of growing in faith as we walk with Jesus through the final days of his life on earth, and it is also a time for learning about what we need to change in order to live life more fully as God's children.

Part of the learning process is remembering what it means to communicate effectively, as well as find ways to "get right" with God and each other. In the passage above, we are reminded that, before offering our gifts to God, we should find ways to be in right relationship with God and others. When we communicate, we need to talk to the other person and try to bring about reconciliation or clarity in our interactions. That means talking DIRECTLY to them, not telling someone else. As difficult as that may seem, it is the most honorable way to show respect for the other person and work through issues.

During this Lenten season, let us find ways to continue to build relationships that are wholesome, healthy, and loving.

Blessings, Rev. Deb

THE CHURCH AT WORK



FUMC DAILY UPDATES & 40 DAYS - 40 PICS FACEBOOK CAMPAIGN

The Daily updates continue to be a powerful way of staying connected and engaged with not only our church family but our entire community of friends. The current Lenten Journey campaign of 40 days - 40 pics is stretching all of us to reflect on the powerful words but also to be creative in how these words come to life for us in that moment through a picture that is shared in the comments section. Here are some examples of the engagement and fun our community is having...JOIN US by friending us on Facebook.

COLLABORATION SERIES

We have partnered with Eliot UMC and St. Mark's UMC congregations in a Lenten video series that uses the talents of each congregation in providing monologues, special music, readings and more. You can watch the series by logging into <https://www.eliotumc.org> each Wednesday evening at 7 pm. Let the church office know if you would be willing to participate in the next partnership as we look at doing more projects together.



THE CHURCH AT WORK



LITURGIST SIGN UP

Can YOU HELP?...we are looking for volunteers to help bring diversity into our virtual worship services. You can either join us at the church at 10 am on Saturday or record if from the comfort of your own home as long as you can send it to Bevan via your iPhone or computer. Please sign up @ <https://signup.com/go/RrbfxUv>. Questions? Contact Rev. Deb.

PLEDGES AND DONATIONS

While the sanctuary doors might appear to be closed we are very much OPEN and continue our community outreach with your support through prayers, pledges and donations and for that we thank you! We've added some new way to make GIVING easier on our website fmcportsmouth.com



THE CHURCH AT WORK



FOR KIDS - BY KIDS SUNDAYS

The Church Council is excited to announce that we will be starting a new program every 2nd Sunday of the month that will be dedicated to our FUMC children.

We are currently working out the program details regarding video aspects, music, fun activities etc for our kids to experience and share with us. More details to come.



SURVEY MONKEY

We want to thank each of you for responding to our first FUMC "survey monkey". The purpose of a survey like this is to better understand the changing needs/wants of our community as we continue to evolve our ministry. We will continue to utilize these surveys as an opportunity to strengthen our connection and communication with each other. If you would like to see the results of the survey please reach out to the church office.

THE CHURCH ON ZOOM



SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM

What a wonderful feeling logging into the zoom call each Sunday and see all the familiar faces that would “normally” greet us at Sunday morning worship. Staying connected is so important and one way of doing that is by joining us on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Everyone is sent the ZOOM details from Rev. Deb and if you don’t know how to get logged in PLEASE ask by calling the church office...it’s super easy. We have great discussions on the scripture for the week, as well as a time to catch up with each other and connect as we support each other as a church family. JOIN US!



SPRC ZOOM MEETING

SPRC will have their ZOOM meeting on Wednesday, March 31 at 6:30 pm. We are pleased to announce that Christine Williams is our new Chairperson of the committee, with Kevin Fickenscher, Marilyn Stebbins, Linda Reiber, Cathy VanReenen, Sue Richards, and Sue Sarosiek as Lay Leader serving on the committee. If there are any concerns that need to be brought to the committee concerning the Pastor, staff, or interactions between congregants, please let Christine know.



RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

This month, we recognize the group of individuals who have been working hard inside the church building painting, laying tile, doing repairs, and so many other activities to “spruce up” our facility. The list is long, so trying to name everyone might mean missing someone. However, we especially thank David Richards and the Finance/Trustees committee for organizing everything, and we thank all those who have shown up during work sessions to help.

Also, a special shout-out to the Sillanpaa family for their work last year when they stripped, waxed and polished the floor in Sanborn Hall.

Thank you to everyone who has been part making this happen.

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED

Jen Patria
Bill Stover
Naomi
Erin Frane
Jim Slater
Charles Gilman
Barbara Clement

Harry Junkins
Fred Walton
Sophia
Barbara Glidden
Bobbie Noble
Dan Strange
Danny Westbrook

The family of Jeanne Westcott
The family of Bill and Gayle Gardei
Jen - Stebbins daughter-in-law
Front line workers
Our Denomination
Our Country
Our Church family

Those in nursing and assisted living care
Those who have lost loved ones to COVID



SAFELY HOME

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly
Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh! but Jesus' love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still;
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's Will.

'There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth—
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!



SAFELY HOME

This past month three of our beloved church family members have been greeted by our Heavenly Father saying welcome home. While they are not physically with us they have left a lasting imprint of kindness, empathy, joy, faith and love on us all.



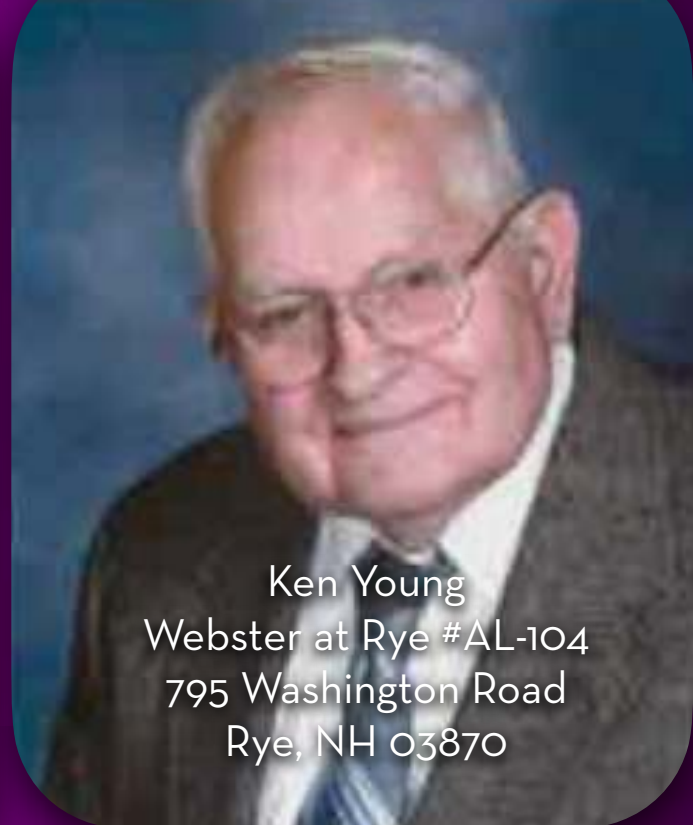
Thank you Bill & Gayle Gardei and Jeanne Westcott for sharing your love and generosity of your God given talents with us throughout the years. May we continue to do the work set before us...and oh, the joy when we meet up again.



Barbara Clement
Riverside Rest Home
276 County Farm Rd #304
Dover, NH 03820



Marion Collishaw
50 Old Colony Way
Scituate MA 02066



Ken Young
Webster at Rye #AL-104
795 Washington Road
Rye, NH 03870

OUR FAMILY

WHO CAN'T MAKE IT TO CHURCH

A card can make a big difference in someone's day!



Barbara Glidden
188 Jones Ave #101
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Gil Stebbins
143 Rogers Rd #105
Kittery, ME 03904
207.807.6675



Barbara Sylvester
346 Pleasant St. #254
Portsmouth, NH 03801



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Roberta Noble
7 Devin Scott
13 Carson Crisp
24 Melanie Berry

KIDS FIRST



KIDS FIRST OUTREACH

2020 was indeed a very challenging year for everyone but for some it has had serious consequences. Because of YOU and through the FUMC KIDS FIRST outreach program we have become a lifeline for our local at risk kids.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?...

You can use the website "GIVE" tab, use the QR code or write a check noting KIDS FIRST donation for all options. Wednesday is donation drop off day from 10 - 2 pm.

Thanks for making a difference!



GIVING MADE EASIER!

We have added two digital ways you can now send your FUMC pledge or give a donation to the church for any of the following giving opportunities:

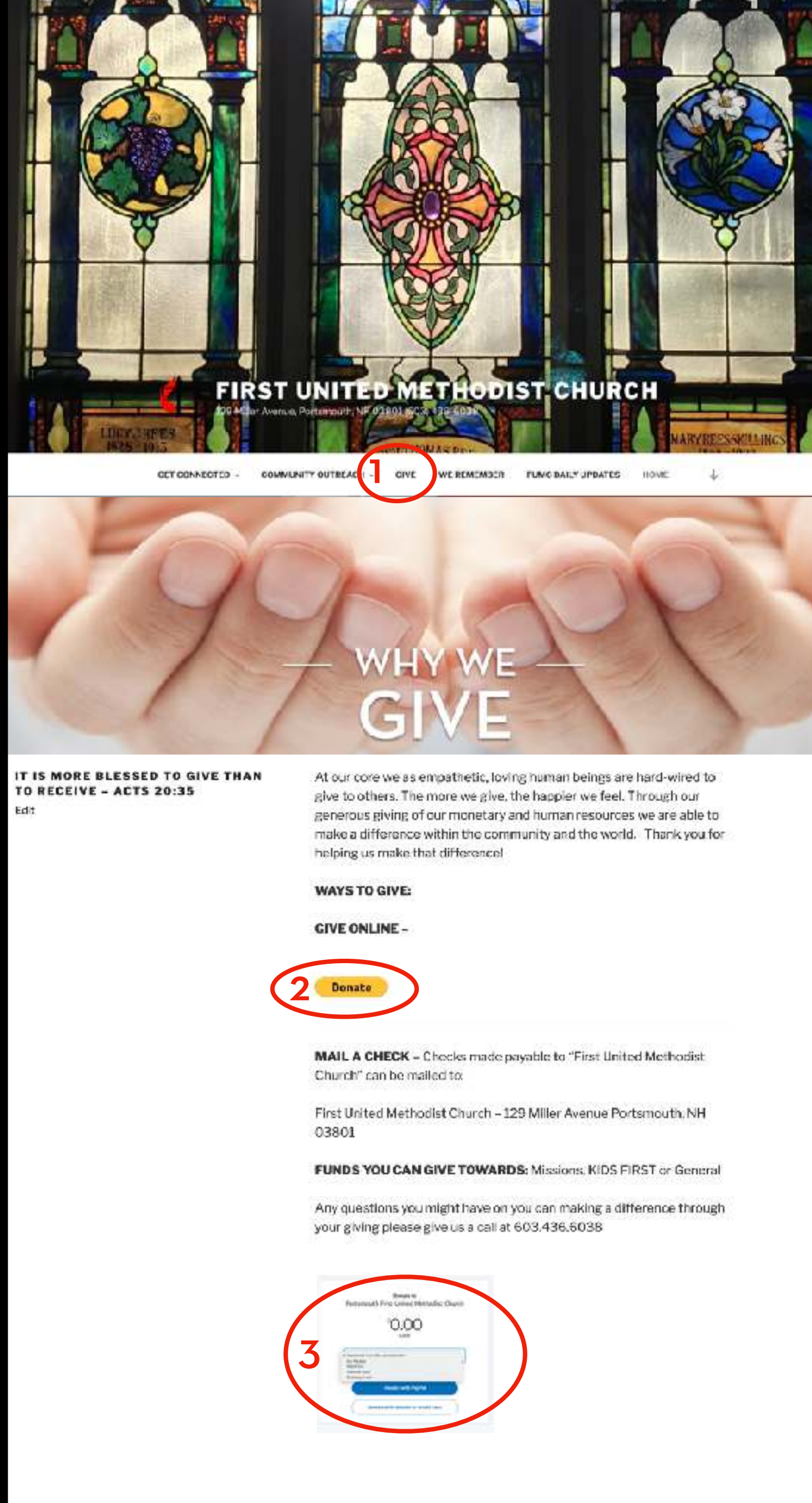
- My Pledge
- Kids First Fund
- General Fund
- Building Fund

Here's how...

1.] Visit our website at fumcportsmouth.com and follow the 3 steps shown to the right.

OR...

2.] Point your phone camera on the QR code below to view the online PayPal donation page.



The screenshot shows the website of the First United Methodist Church. At the top, there is a header with the church's name and address: "FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 129 Miller Avenue, Portsmouth, NH 03801-5038". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "GET CONNECTED", "COMMUNITY OUTREACH", "GIVE", "WE REMEMBER", "FUMC DAILY UPDATES", and "HOME". The "GIVE" link is circled in red with a red number "1" next to it.

The main content area features a large image of hands clasped in prayer with the text "WHY WE GIVE". Below this is a section titled "IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE - ACTS 20:35" with an "Edit" link. To the right of this section is a paragraph: "At our core we as empathetic, loving human beings are hard-wired to give to others. The more we give, the happier we feel. Through our generous giving of our monetary and human resources we are able to make a difference within the community and the world. Thank you for helping us make that difference!"

Below the paragraph is a section titled "WAYS TO GIVE:" with a sub-section "GIVE ONLINE -". Under "GIVE ONLINE -", there is a yellow button labeled "Donate" which is circled in red with a red number "2" next to it.

Below the "Donate" button is a section titled "MAIL A CHECK -" with the text: "Checks made payable to 'First United Methodist Church' can be mailed to: First United Methodist Church - 129 Miller Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801".

Below the "MAIL A CHECK -" section is a section titled "FUNDS YOU CAN GIVE TOWARDS:" with the text: "Missions, KIDS FIRST or General".

Below the "FUNDS YOU CAN GIVE TOWARDS:" section is a paragraph: "Any questions you might have on you can making a difference through your giving please give us a call at 603.436.6038".

At the bottom of the page, there is a screenshot of a PayPal donation page. The page shows a donation amount of "\$0.00" and a "Donate with PayPal" button. This screenshot is circled in red with a red number "3" next to it.



PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY

Will be available for you to pick-up in front of the main **Sanctuary** red doors starting Wednesday, March 24th - Saturday 27th.





HOMEMADE EASTER PIES

CALLING ALL PIE LOVERS AND PIE ANGEL VOLUNTEERS!

Remember all the scrumptious Apple, Blueberry [\$12] and Pecan [\$14] pies that were made for Thanksgiving...[picture to the left as a reminder!]. Great news!...we are going to be offering “ready to bake” at your convenience fresh frozen pies for your Easter gatherings or a nice gift for a neighbor or friend. They will be beautifully boxed, tied and tagged with a note from the Pie Angel who made it for you.

Pie order deadline is March 26th

To order contact Sue Richards @ 603-749-4169 [text/call] or email at mksrichards@comcast.net

Pie order pick up will be April 3rd 9 am - 12 pm at the church

Pie Angels needed March 30 and April 1st @ 9 am

Packaging Angels needed April 3rd from 9 am - 12 pm

Please let Sue Richards know that you will be helping!





WHO WE ARE

FUMC PORTSMOUTH A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

We, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are dedicated in worshipping, learning, and serving with all people as we embrace Jesus Christ's message of love and acceptance. As a United Methodist Church we stand fully behind the statement "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors". We celebrate our diversity and invite all persons regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, physical or mental ability into full membership and participation in the life of this community of faith.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
129 MILLER AVENUE
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801
603.436.6038
fumcportsmouth.com

REV. DR. DEBRA J. HANSON